VRS in AI and IA

162. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have evolved a Voluntary Retirement Scheme in order to reduce its staff strength and financial loss; and

(b) if so, the estimated number of surplus staff in both the organisations and how many of them are likely to accept the Voluntary Retirement Scheme during the year 2001-2002 and the expected total cost thereon organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government for introduction of the VRS in Air India and Indian Airlines.

New Hand Trolleys for Sardar Patel Airport in Gujarat

†163. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hand trolleys used for loading of goods at Sardar Patel International Airport of Gujarat are in a very bad condition;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said trolleys are quite old and the number of trolleys is less in comparison to the number of passengers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to replace them immediately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The condition of hand trolleys available at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Gujarat is satisfactory. Presently, there are 600 trolleys i.e. 300 at domestic terminal and 300 at international terminal, provided at this airport. The trolleys are of old designs. Airports Authority of India has invited tenders for purchasing 350 new modern designed hand trolleys.

Amendment in Aircraft Rules, 1937

164. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international airlines and National Carriers are crying foul over the DGCA's recent move to free the pricing mechanism for international flights;

(b) whether the DGCA has stated that it will amend the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to allow airlines to fix their own fares thus setting off a fare war; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) There is a proposal regarding change in pricing mechanism for international flights. No final decision has been taken.

Modernisation of airports in Madhya Pradesh

165. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up schemes for modernisation of airports infrastructure, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any targets have been set for their completion; and

(d) if so, the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The upgradation of airports is a continuous process